

Appl. No. : 09/921,013
Filed : July 27, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An isolated microorganism identified by accession number KCTC 0687BP~~ A biologically pure culture of *Enterobacter sp.* having all of the identifying characteristics of *Enterobacter sp.* SSYL deposited under accession number KCTC 0687BP.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an exopolysaccharide, comprising:
providing ~~an isolated microorganism identified by accession number KCTC 0687BP~~ a biologically pure culture of *Enterobacter sp.* having all of the identifying characteristics of *Enterobacter sp.* SSYL deposited under accession number KCTC 0687BP;

culturing the ~~microorganism~~ biologically pure culture in a medium so as to allow production of an exopolysaccharide.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 + 2, further comprising:
isolating the exopolysaccharide from a mixture comprising the culture medium, the microorganism and the exopolysaccharide.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 + 2, wherein the culture medium comprises a carbon source selected from the group consisting of glucose, sucrose, fructose, rhamnose, galactose, arbinose, mannitol, lactose, gluconate, xylose and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 + 2, wherein the culturing is performed at a temperature ranged from about 25°C to about 38°C.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the culturing is performed under aeration at a flow rate ranged from about 0.1 vvm to about 1.5 vvm.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 + 2, wherein the culturing is performed under agitation at an agitation speed ranged from about 150 to about 500 rpm.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the isolation of the exopolysaccharide comprises:
removing cells from the culture mixture; and
dialyzing a resulting mixture so as to isolate the exopolysaccharide.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8 + 3, wherein the ~~removal of cells~~ isolation of the exopolysaccharide comprises:

centrifuging the culture mixture to obtain a supernatant;
precipitating a mixture comprising the exopolysaccharide;
dissolving the precipitate in a liquid; and

Appl. No. : **09/921,013**
Filed : **July 27, 2001**

removing remaining cells.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, further comprising lyophilizing the ~~separated exopolysaccharide~~ dialyzed precipitate.

11. (Currently Amended) A composition obtainable by the method of Claim 1 2.

12-23 (Cancelled)